

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic commerce system for effecting electronic commercial transactions using a computer network in which computers are interconnected, the system comprising:

means for identifying a user and generating user information in response to an access from a user terminal;

means for receiving a product purchase request from the user terminal;

means for creating product selection information for use by a first party that carries products, the product selection information for selection of at least one product, the product selection information is created on the basis of at least one of the product purchase request and the user information; and

means for creating product delivery information for use by a second party that delivers products, the product delivery information for delivery of the at least one product, the product delivery information is created on the basis of at least one of the product purchase request and the user information.

2. An electronic commerce system according to claim 1, wherein when the product purchase request comprises a request for two or more products, the means for creating product selection information causes the product selection information to include a product list of at least one of the two or more products that can be packed in a single package.

3. An electronic commerce system according to claim 2, wherein the product list of the at least one of the two or more products that can be packed in a single package is produced by the means for creating product selection information on the basis of at least one of a weight and a volume of each of the products contained in the product purchase request.

4. An electronic commerce system according to claim 2, wherein the product list of the at least one of the two or more products that can be packed in a single package is produced by the means for creating product selection information on the basis of a packaging characteristic of each of the products contained in the product purchase request.

5. An electronic commerce system according to claim 1, wherein when the product purchase request comprises a request for two or more products, the means for creating the product selection information causes the product selection information to include a pick-up order in which the products are picked up, the pick-up order being determined on the basis of locations of the respective products in the first party.

6. An electronic commerce system according to claim 2, further comprising:
means for transmitting information pertaining to the at least one of the two or more products that can be packed in a single package, to the user terminal.

7. An electronic commerce system according to claim 1, wherein the first party that carries products is a general shop that carries a plurality of types of products.

8. An electronic commerce system according to claim 1, wherein the means for creating product delivery information causes the product delivery information to include a delivery order in which the products are to be delivered.

9. An electronic commerce system according to claim 1, further comprising:
means for permitting the user terminal to acquire at least one of a product selection status observed at the first party, and a delivery status observed at the second party.

10. An electronic commerce system according to claim 1, further comprising:
means for providing the user terminal with product information in response to a search request from the user terminal.

11. An electronic commerce system according to claim 1, wherein one of the product selection information and the product delivery information includes encrypted, secure information about the user, and the other of the product selection information and the product delivery information does not include the encrypted, secure information about the user.

12. An electronic commerce method for effecting electronic commercial transactions using a computer network in which computers are interconnected, the

method comprising the steps of:

identifying a user in response to an access from a user terminal, to generate user identification information;

receiving a product purchase request from the user terminal;

creating product selection information needed for selection of at least one product and creating product delivery information needed for delivery of the at least one product, on the basis of at least one of the user identification information and the product purchase request;

sending the product selection information to a terminal of a first party that carries products; and

sending the product delivery information to a terminal of a second party that delivers products.

13. An electronic commerce method according to claim 12, wherein when the product purchase request comprises a request for two or more products, the product selection information includes a product list of at least one of the two or more products that can be packed in a single package.

14. An electronic commerce method according to claim 13, wherein the product list of the at least one of the two or more products that can be packed in a single package is produced on the basis of at least one of a weight and a volume of each of the products contained in the product purchase request.

15. An electronic commerce method according to claim 13, wherein the product list of the at least one of the two or more products that can be packed in a single package is produced on the basis of a packaging characteristic of each of the products contained in the product purchase request.

16. An electronic commerce method according to claim 12, wherein when the product purchase request comprises a request for two or more products, the product selection information includes a pick-up order in which the products are picked up, the pick-up order being determined on the basis of locations of the respective products in the first party.

17. An electronic commerce method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of:

transmitting information pertaining to the at least one of the two or more products that can be packed in a single package, to the user terminal.

18. An electronic commerce method according to claim 12, wherein the first party that carries products is a general shop that carries a plurality of types of products.

19. An electronic commerce method according to claim 12, wherein the product delivery information includes a delivery order in which the products are to be delivered.

20. An electronic commerce method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of:

permitting the user terminal to acquire at least one of a product selection status observed at the first party, and a delivery status observed at the second party.

21. An electronic commerce method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of:

providing the user terminal with product information in response to a search request from the user terminal.

22. An electronic commerce method according to claim 12, wherein one of the product selection information and the product delivery information includes encrypted, secure information about the user, and the other of the product selection information and the product delivery information does not include the encrypted, secure information about the user.

23. An electronic commerce method for effecting electronic commerce using a computer network in which computers are interconnected, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a purchase request for at least one product from a user terminal;

determining whether the purchase request is for more than one product;

when the user request is determined to be for more than one product, creating a product list of the products that can be packed in a single package; and

transmitting the product list to a terminal of a party that carries the products.

24. An electronic commerce method according to claim 23, wherein the product list of the products that can be packed in a single package is created on the basis of at least one of a weight and a volume of the respective products which are stored in advance in a product information database.

25. An electronic commerce method according to claim 23, wherein the product list of the products that can be packed in a single package includes data pertaining to the order of picking up the products, which order is determined on the basis of locations of the products within premises of the first party.

26. An electronic commerce method according to claim 23, wherein information regarding the products that can be packed in a single package is transmitted as a reply to the user terminal.

27. An electronic commerce system that effects electronic commercial transactions using a computer network in which computers are interconnected, the system comprising:

means for receiving a purchase request for at least one product from a user at a user terminal;

means for creating a product list when the received purchase request is for more than one product and at least two of the requested products can be packed in a single package, the product list listing the at least two products that can be packed in the single package; and

means for transmitting the product list to a party that carries the products.

28. An electronic commerce system according to claim 27, wherein the means for creating a product list creates the product list by comparing at least one of a total weight and a total volume of the products with an allowable weight or an allowable volume, respectively.

29. An electronic commerce system according to claim 27, wherein the means for creating a product list creates the product list in accordance with a pick-up order that

is determined on the basis of the locations of the products in the premises of the party that carries the products.

30. An electronic commerce system according to claim 27, further comprising
5 means for transmitting information regarding the products that can be stored in the single package to the user terminal.

31. An electronic commerce management apparatus for managing electronic
commercial transactions using a computer network in which computers are
10 interconnected, the apparatus comprising:
means for receiving a purchase request for at least one product from a user
terminal connected to the computer network;
means for storing product information;
means for determining whether the purchase request is for more than one
15 product;
means for creating, when the purchase request is determined to be for more than
one product, a product list of requested products that can be packed in a single package
according to the product purchase request and the product information; and
means for transmitting the product list to a party that carries the products.
20

32. An electronic commerce management apparatus according to claim 31,
wherein the means for storing product information stores weight and volume data of the
products.

33. An electronic commerce management apparatus according to claim 31,
25 wherein the means for storing product information stores locations of the products at
premises of the party that carries the products.

34. An electronic commerce management apparatus according to claim 31,
30 wherein the list of the products that can be packed in the single package is produced on
the basis of at least one of a total weight and a total volume of the products.

35. An electronic commerce method for effecting electronic commerce using a
computer network in which computers are interconnected, the method comprising the

steps of:

receiving a purchase request for two or more products from a user terminal;
determining whether at least two of the requested products can be packed in a
single package based upon predetermined criteria; and

- 5 producing data that enables the products to be specified and packed in the single
package if it is determined that at least two of the products can be packed in the single
package, and transmitting the data to a terminal at a party that carries the products.